

Press Release

For immediate distribution:
February 21, 2006

Contact person:
Bermet Moldobaeva
Tel.: (996 312) 62 79 36
e-mail: bermet@iom.elcat.kg

The Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Kyrgyz Republic has the honor to announce the start of a new 27-month Program on Combating Trafficking in People funded and supported by USAID.

This project is a follow-up to USAID's project "Combating Trafficking in Persons in Central Asia: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution (Legislation)" implemented by Winrock International, which was completed in December 2005. In this project, IOM will continue to cooperate with the NGOs in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, which successfully disseminate information on the risks of human trafficking and illegal migration, organize and facilitate trainings with target populations, and provide assistance to victims of trafficking.

In cooperation with the NGO network in Kyrgyzstan, IOM will continue to organize repatriation and to offer medical, psychological, legal, and rehabilitative assistance to victims of human trafficking who return and attempt to reintegrate into their home societies/countries. The operation of shelters will also continue, with more specialized services offered to victims of trafficking. Existing shelters will work with victims of human trafficking, and new shelters will be established in areas where services are lacking. New consultation centers for victims of labor exploitation also will be established in select areas.

IOM will continue to conduct awareness campaigns among risk groups and the general population. The campaigns will focus in particular on youth, especially children from underprivileged backgrounds, in orphanages and detention centers for young offenders, and on other groups of vulnerable adults (the poor, single mothers, migrants, and refugees). Special attention will be devoted not only to risks, but also to recommendations on how to minimize or avoid these risks and how to handle situations when a person becomes a victim of human trafficking. Moreover, trainings also will be geared towards raising awareness on issues of labor rights and obligations (contracts, résumé writing tips, etc). Trainings will be facilitated in cooperation with partner NGOs and high school teachers, who will teach courses on the problems of trafficking in persons using the existing IOM handbook for counter-trafficking education.

IOM will design and print flyers, stickers, and posters and produce video and audio materials with information on counter-trafficking. In particular, specially produced documentaries and public service announcements will be televised nationally. Theater plays on the problem of human trafficking will be staged using four scenarios written for IOM, and new theater plays will be selected on a competitive basis.

IOM Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic:

245 Chuy Avenue • 720001 • Bishkek • Kyrgyz Republic
Tel: 996 (312) 627936/37/38/39 • Fax: 996 (312) 627940 • E-mail: iomkyr@elcat.kg



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



IOM International Organization for Migration
МОМ Международная Организация по Миграции
МЭАУ Миграция боюнча Эл Аралык Уюму

In cooperation with partner NGOs, IOM will provide return, reintegration, health care, and legal assistance to trafficking victims, both upon their release in countries of destination and upon their return to home countries. Victims will receive vocational training that will improve their ability to find jobs in local markets. Vocational training will be offered to vulnerable groups as well.

IOM will establish cooperation with leaders of religious congregations represented in the region, in order to engage the religious leaders in preventive and assistance activities.

The expected results of the 27 month project will be as follows:

- higher awareness of trafficking risks and of exit strategies from situations of (sexual and/or labor) exploitation among risk groups and vulnerable populations;
- making available preventive vocational training for risk groups that will improve their chances to find legal employment opportunities in home countries and abroad;
- providing improved assistance services to trafficking victims, implemented by NGOs;
- increased sustainability of these NGOs;
- the establishment of consultation centers for labor migrants;
- circulating information among the general population and religious leaders that would provide better understanding of the suffering of trafficking victims, thereby decreasing their stigmatization and re-victimization;
- reducing the scale of trafficking in persons from and in Central Asian countries during the project's implementation.

For more information and future cooperation, please contact the Mission of the International Organization for Migration in the Kyrgyz Republic.

IOM Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic:

245 Chuy Avenue • 720001 • Bishkek • Kyrgyz Republic
Tel: 996 (312) 627936/37/38/39 • Fax: 996 (312) 627940 • E-mail: iomkyr@elcat.kg